

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01644 090933Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCE-00 ACDA-07 DHA-05
/104 W
-----026714 091214Z /43

R 090649Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9682
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CONFIDENTIAL ANTANANARIVO 1644

DEPT PASS ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MASS, UR, SO, ET, MA
SUBJ: DRAWING AFRICAN ATTENTION TO SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE HORN

REF: (A) STATE 214253, (B) ANTANANARIVO 1583 (NOTAL)

1. OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION TO DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION IS
THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY
OF STATE TO WRITE TO MALAGASY LEADERS ON THIS SUBJECT. THE
MISSION WHICH HAS JUST RETURNED FROM HORN PROBABLY GOT AN
EARFUL IN BOTH ADDIS AND MOGADISCIO ABOUT THE EXTENT OF SOVIET
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ARMAMENTS GOING TO THE OTHER SIDE. OUR
GRATUITOUSLY AND OFFICIALLY REMINDING THEM OF SOMETHING THEY
ALREADY KNOW WOULD PROBABLY SEEM A TRANSPARENT AND OPPORTUNISTIC
EFFORT TO CAPITALIZE ON SOVIET DISCOMFORT AND WOULD BE ALL THE
MORE IRRITATING IN THAT MADAGASCAR SHARES IN THIS DISCOMFORT,
PARTICULARLY IF, AS WE SUSPECT, MALAGASY MISSION WENT TO
HORN AT SOVIET BEHEST.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SITUATION IS RIPE FOR SOME GENTLE NEEDLING ON OUR PART AS OCCASIONS ARISE. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY AT RECENT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS TO TELL FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BOTH OF WHOM WENT TO HORN, THAT, AS A FORMER WORKER ON HORN PROBLEMS, I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE SITUATION. MY EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUE, THE ONLY AFRICAN OR ARAB AMBASSADOR IN THIS CAPITAL, HAS DONE THE SAME. NEITHER OF THESE MALAGASY OFFICIALS SEEMED EAGER TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT. I WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR MALAGASY EFFORTS AND INVOLVEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, THUS REMINDING THEM BY IMPLICATION OF OBVIOUS SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS CONFLICT.

3. I DOUBT THAT DRM (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR) WOULD BE WILLING TO VOICE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER SOVIET ARMS POLICY IN HORN, WHATEVER IT MIGHT THINK IN PRIVATE. AT BEST IT MIGHT MENTION MATTER TO SOME KINDRED PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES BUT I DON'T THINK ANY ENCOURAGEMENT ON OUR PART WOULD HELP BRING THIS ABOUT; IN FACT IT MAY HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT. I MAY INQUIRE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY OR WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS WHETHER THEY ARE SHARING THEIR FINDINGS ON SITUATION IN HORN WITH ANY OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS, BUT I THINK THAT IS THE MOST WE SHOULD DO AT PRESENT.

4. OUTSIDE OF PRESS, ONLY REPORT WE HAVE HAD ON MISSION
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TO HORN WAS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO A LONGTIM FRENCH FRIEND THAT HE HAD FOUND BOTH SIAD AND MENGISTU HIGHLY INTRANSIGENT. HE ALSO TOLD EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR THAT THE MISSION HAD ONLY BEEN BEARING MESSAGES. PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT SOLOFOSON TOLD ME THAT DRM WOULD DO NOTHING MORE AT PRESENT THAN AWAIT REPLIES TO INVITATIONS SENT BOTH HORN LEADERS. NOBODY I HAVE SPOKEN TO THINKS EITHER WILL ACCEPT, AND I SUSPECT DRM WOULD JUST AS SOON THEY DIDN'T. SOME MALAGASY OFFICIALS MAY WELL THINK THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH IN THIS SITUATION IN THE NAME OF PROGRESSIST SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BARRETT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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